AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): Multi-channel network node for routing/switching data

from a number of input ports to a number of output ports, wherein said data is buffered in a

memory unit before being passed to a destined output port, wherein said multi-channel

network node comprises

said memory unit organized as a number of physical memory queues, each queue being

physically arranged so that it is physically assigned to an output port, and

a switching unit for routing said data from the input port to said memory queue

which is assigned to the destined output port.

2.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein each of

said memory queues comprises a number of coherent memory cells.

3.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 2, wherein the

number of memory cells is resizable in order to re-distribute buffer capacity of the memory

queues.

4.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein a re-

assembly unit is coupled with said input ports of the network node and said switching unit and

a segmentation unit are coupled with said memory unit and said output ports of the network

node.

5.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein each

memory queue is assigned to a memory agent controlling the operation of the memory queue.

6.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 5, wherein said

memory queues and said memory agents form said switching unit.

7.   (previously presented): Multi-channel network node according to claim 5,

wherein said memory queues and said memory agents operate asynchronous and in parallel.

8.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein said

switching unit is a switch matrix.

9.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein said

switching unit is provided by a processor controlled by software.

10.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein input and

output interfaces are assigned to the input and output ports, respectively.

11.   (original): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1, wherein burst

buffers are provided.

12.   (previously presented) Multi-channel network node according to claim 11,

wherein the output ports are output ports of the memory unit and are coupled with a switching

unit.

13.   (previously presented): Multi-channel network node according to claim 1,

wherein the output ports are the output ports of the network node.

14.   (currently amended): Method for routing/switching data from any input port to

any of a number of output ports of a multi-channel network node, comprising the steps of:

        receiving data from a data channel by a receiver unit;

        queuing said data in a plurality of memory queues constituting a memory unit,

<u>wherein each memory queue is physically arranged so that it is physically assigned to an output</u>

<u>port;</u> and

        switching/routing the data from the memory queues to the output port the

respective memory queue is assigned to.

15.   (original): Method according to claim 14, wherein each memory queue allocates

coherent memory cells.

16.   (previously presented): Multi-channel routing/switching system comprising a

network of interactive cascaded multi-channel network nodes as claimed in claim 1.